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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

To : The Department of State

From : U.S. Mission Berlin

Ref :

Subject : Alleged Statement by Soviet Press Officer Beburow on Berlin's Status

January 4, 1958

Despatch No. 429

During a recent conversation Senator Dr. Guenter Klein stated (he requested his source be kept strictly confidential) that the Berlin correspondent of the Sued Deutsche Zeitung, Rene Beyer, had told him of a conversation he had had recently with the Soviet Press Officer and First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy to the DDR, Beburow. As far as the so-called Four-Power status of Berlin was concerned Beburow flatly averred that it no longer existed. Any agreement among the four powers had ceased to exist because of the violations committed by the Western powers when the currency reform was introduced in 1948 in West Germany and West Berlin, and when West Berlin was made a center of espionage and diversionary activities directed against the Soviet Union. The three Western powers have no more legal right to be in West Berlin according to Beburow, and their continued stay in West Berlin is tolerated only by the Soviet Union and the DDR on a "de facto" basis. Upon the newspaperman's question whether this meant, therefore, that there would not be any change in the Berlin status until reunification of Germany was accomplished, Beburow emphasized that this was not what he had stated. He had merely said the Western powers were in West Berlin temporarily on a "de facto basis" but how long the Soviet Union would tolerate such a condition was open to question.

Beburow by

Comment: This remark reported by Rene Beyer is very similar to the one attributed to Georg Dittrich of West Deutsche Allgemeine (see Despatch 343 of November 25). Dittrich's reputation is rather good; Rene Beyer's, however, is not. Beyer, who is said to have an extensive Nazi background, has a definite streak of anti-Americanism in him and a penchant for dabbling in East-West affairs. The story in any case sounds plausible and is probably correct enough.

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Acting Assistant Chief of Mission

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